

Lesson
11

Anglo-Saxon Affixes and Base Words

Teaching

Many common English words come from the language spoken by the **Anglo-Saxons**, people who lived in Britain about 1,600 years ago. Their language, Anglo-Saxon, or Old English, is the source of many modern English **base words**—words that can stand alone—and **affixes**—word parts added to the beginning (**prefix**) or end (**suffix**) of base words to form new words. Understanding these word parts can help you understand unfamiliar words and increase your vocabulary.

base word from Old English freond that means “to love” or “to set free”

friend + -ship = friendship

suffix from Old English -scipe that means “the state or condition of”

word that means “the state of being a loving person”

Study the common Anglo-Saxon affixes and their meanings in the chart below.

Affix	Type	Meaning	Example
fore -	prefix	before, earlier	foretell
mid-	prefix	middle, center	midnight
over-	prefix	above, superior	overpass
self-	prefix	oneself, automatic	self-control
under-	prefix	below, inferior	underground
-hood	suffix	state, quality, group	childhood
-ship	suffix	state, quality, group	hardship
-y	suffix	of, like, or tending toward	creamy, muddy

A. Identifying Anglo-Saxon Affixes and Base Words

Add a prefix or a suffix to each Anglo-Saxon base word to create a word with the meaning shown. Then on a separate sheet of paper, write a sentence using the new word.

1. _____-taught (having learned by oneself)
2. mother_____ (the state of being a mother)
3. _____sight (knowing events before they occur)
4. _____town (the center of a city)
5. _____pass (a passage beneath something)
6. _____less (unselfish)
7. owner_____ (the state of being in possession)
8. _____y (feeling drowsy)
9. _____fed (provide less food than needed)
10. neighbor_____ (a group of people living nearby)

Anglo-Saxon Affixes and Base Words

More Practice

B. Anglo-Saxon Affixes and Base Words in Action

foretell *moldy* *self-made* *underscore* *sugery*
midsummer *overcome* *understand* *sisterhood* *kinship*

Write the word from the list that best completes each sentence. Use context clues and your knowledge of affixes and base words to help you.

1. Our family reunion is scheduled for June 21, or _____.
2. If you still don't _____ after reading the instructions, I'll explain the process again.
3. With so many obstacles to _____, it's amazing how well Darya has done.
4. Paul's dentist cautioned him about eating too many _____ snacks.
5. Someone who is totally _____ deserves all the credit for her accomplishments.
6. Yuri feels a real _____ with people who love music.
7. Sally's beach towel became _____ because she forgot to hang it out to dry.
8. One way to stress a word in your writing is to _____ it.
9. The girls in our class formed a _____ to discuss common ideas and problems.
10. Who can _____ what the future will bring?

C. Vocabulary Challenge

For each Anglo-Saxon base word, add an affix to form a new word. Then write a sentence using the word.

1. bake _____

2. word _____

3. help _____

4. partner _____

5. child _____
